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Barnstaple Rural District

Annual Report

- ON -

The Health of the Area

VITAL STATISTICS
SANITARY WORKS
HOUSING, ETC.
for the Year 1954



BARNSTAPLE RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

ON

THE HEALTH OF THE AREA

VITAL STATISTICS
SANITARY WORKS
HOUSING, ETC.
for the Year 1954

By

Dr. F. J. H. MARTIN

(M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond., D.P.H. Oxon.)

Medical Officer of Health

And

ARTHUR J. DENNIS
Chief Sanitary Inspector

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The Health Department,

The Red House,

Castle Street,

Barnstaple,

June, 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of the Barnstaple Rural District Council.

Mrs. Trebble and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you the Report upon the Public Health of the Barnstaple Rural District for the year 1954.

Your obedient Servant,

FRANK MARTIN,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Part Time Officer:

Medical Officer of Health: Dr. F. J. H. Martin, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond., D.P.H. Oxon.

Whole Time Officers:

Chief Sanitary Inspector
Building Surveyor and Engineer

A. J. Dennis

Additional Sanitary Inspector: F. A. Lethbridge, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Second Sanitary Inspector . R. H. West, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Housing Manager - - C. D. Squire, A.I.A.S.

Rodent Officer W. E. Lamb

Clerk of Works J. G. Pugsley

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The chief occupations of the district are:—

- 1. Agriculture
- 2. Catering for Visitors
- 3. Market Gardening.

The locality may be regarded as purely non-industrial, and employment is on the whole steady.

1954

ANNUAL REPORT

Of the Medical Officer of Health for the Barnstaple Rural District

STATISTICS AND S	SOCIAL C	ONDITIONS OF TH	HE AREA
Area in Acres Population (Registrate Inhabited Houses Rateable Value Value of a Penny Ra	r-General's	•••••	7,950 £138,148
V	TTAL ST	ATISTICS	
Live Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	172	164	336
Illegitimate	3	7	10
			346
Birth Ra	te per 1,00	00 Population 14.7	
Still Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	5	2	7
Illegitimate	0	0	0
			-
			7
Rate per 1	,000 Live a	and Still Births 19.8	
Deaths	Male	Female	Total
	159	137	296
Death Ra	te per 1,00	00 Population 12.6	

The Table below shows the comparative figures for Barnstaple Rural District and England and Wales.

Birth Ran Pop	te per ulation	1,000	Death Rate	Infant	Mortality per 1,000 Live Births
	Live Births	Still Births	per 1,000	Deaths under 1 year	Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years
Barnstaple Rural Dist. England and Wales	16.9	.29	10.1	14.4 25.5	0

The local Birth and Death Rates are shown above corrected by the area comparability factor.

COTTCCTCC O.	, the area	Compa	iracinity ra	••••						
	Deaths of Infants under 1 Year									
			Males	Females	Total					
Legitimate	• •		4	- 1	5					
Illegitimate		• •	0	0	0					
	Rate per	1,000 I	Live Births	14.4	5					
D	eaths of I	nfants u	nder 4 wee	eks of age						
			Males	Females	Total					
Legitimate	• •	• •	4	1	5					
Illegitimate	• •	• •	0	0	0					
					5					
			over 65 y							
	— 69			- 89 ·· 32						
70	<i>—</i> 74	40		– 94 13						
	- 79 		95 p	olus 3						
80	— 84 ···	46								
			Tota	<i>l</i> 205						
Deaths from	Measles ((all ages))	• •	. 0					

0

0

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)

Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 years ...

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1954

	Males	Females
Syphilitic Diseases	1	0
Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm of Lung and Bronchus	5	1
Malignant Neoplasm of Breast	0	2
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	14	24
Leukaemia	0	2
Diabetes	1	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	28	25
Coronary Disease—Angina	24	9
Hypertension with Heart Disease	4	4
Other Heart Diseases	42	50
Other Circulatory Diseases	5	2
Influenza	0	1
Pneumonia	4.	1
Bronchitis	8	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	0
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenal	2	0
Nephritis	1	0
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	0
Congenital Malformation	1	0
Other Defined and Ill Defined Diseases	9	7
Motor Vehicle Accidents	0	2
All Other Accidents	5	1
Suicide	1	0
	159	137

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Tuberculosis

Hawley Sanatorium, situated in the Borough of Barnstaple, has 28 beds.

Maternity Cases

The Devon County Council is continuing to act as they did in 1947, as agents for the Regional Hospital Board, until the Board has completed its own plans for the treatment of Maternity cases.

At the North Devon Infirmary there is a ward of 12 beds with a fully qualified staff available for cases of doubt or difficulty.

At Bicclescombe Maternity Home, Ilfracombe, there are 10 Maternity and 4 Ante-natal beds.

There are 4 beds at Braunton Nursing Home.

A General Practitioner Maternity Unit of 13 beds is situated at Highfield, Victoria Road, Barnstaple.

Isolation of Infectious Diseases

There is an Infectious Diseases Isolation Hospital at Bideford, which serves Barnstaple as well as other Local Authorities in North Devon. A separate block for early Tuberculosis cases from North Devon is also maintained at this hospital.

Small Pox

The Small Pox Hospital to which any cases of Small Pox will be sent is Upton Pine Hospital, near Exeter. Special Ambulance Transport can be obtained by contacting the Isolation Hospital, Whipton, Exeter. Telephone 67158.

General

The North Devon Infirmary, situated in Barnstaple, serves the Area, and provides modern Medical and Surgical treatment for the residents of the district.

Wards at the Alexandra Hospital are set aside as an annexe to the wards of the North Devon Infirmary, and post-operative and recovery patients are now transferred there as soon as practicable.

There are 111 beds for the chronic sick at the Alexandra Hospital.

At Braunton Nursing Home there are 4 beds for sick persons.

Laboratory Facilities

The Main Laboratory is situated at 7, Dix's Field, Exeter, and Dr. Moore is the Director. It is completely installed with the necessary equipment for bacteriological examinations of all kinds. Its diagnostic and consultative services are available for all patients. Bacteriological examinations of drinking water and milk are also carried out.

There is also a Pathological Laboratory at the former Barnstaple and North Devon Dispensary building with a full-time Pathologist and Technical Staff to meet the needs of the whole North Devon Area. The Blood Bank is also situated at this Laboratory.

Clinics and Treatment Centres

V.D. Clinic

This is held at the North Devon Infirmary Annexe.

Sessions:		Females	Males
Monday	 	4.0 p.m.	5.15 p.m.
Thursday	 • •	4.30 p.m.	5.45 p.m.

Chest Clinic

The Chest Clinic is held at the North Devon Infirmary.

Sessions:

Ambulance Service

Under section 27 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Local Health Authority (i.e. the Devon County Council) is responsible for the provision of an Ambulance Service, and the Devon Health Committee have arranged for this to be provided through the agency of the St. John Ambulance Association. The Brigade serves Barnstaple Borough and the District around, and the Headquarters are in Commercial Road, Barnstaple. The staff consists of 3 paid members (full time), 20 men volunteers, and 14 volunteer nurses. The Hospital car service, also under the

Devon County Council, is available upon application to the Hospital, and the Ambulance Service is empowered to hire cars in urgent cases when the Ambulance is not necessary.

Immunization against Diphtheria

During the year 301 children received primary injections; 361 children received reinforcing injections.

Vaccination

During the year the following vaccinations were carried out:

Professional Nursing in the Homes

There are 8 District Nurses in the area, all of whom act as Midwives.

Home Helps Scheme

This scheme was started in March 1949 and is run by the W.V.S. for the Devon County Council. It covers Barnstaple Borough and the Rural Areas wherever transport is available, and the scheme is directed by Mrs. Hughes. There are now 48 Home Helps and 345 cases were dealt with in 1954. Any case recommended by a Doctor, Health Visitor or District Nurse is entitled to a Home Help. The Home Helps do any work in the house normally done by the housewife. Thirty-three aged people living by themselves are now being looked after by Home Helps who otherwise would have to go to hospital. During the year 1954 twenty-three maternity cases have been rendered assistance in their homes by the Home Helps. Nine blind people also receive assistance from the Service. I am glad to note that the service is steadily growing and is much appreciated by all concerned.

Prevalence of Infectious Diseases

The following Tables give particulars of the Infectious Diseases notified during the year, together with the distribution of cases and the age groups.

Names of Diseases			No. Notified
Scarlet Fever	• •	 	5
Whooping Cough		 	38
Pneumonia		 	4
Puerperal Pyrexia		 	2
Measles		 	7
			56

Tuberculosis—New Cases

During the year 14 fresh cases of Tuberculosis were notified in accordance with the regulations.

Age Periods	Pulmon		ary	Non-P		ulmor	nary
		M.	F.		M.	F.	
1 to 5 years	• •	0	0		0	0	
5 to 10 years		1	0		1	0	
10 to 15 years	• •	0	0		1	0	
15 to 25 years	• •	2	1		O	0	
25 to 35 years	• •	2	0		0	1	
35 to 45 years	• •	1	0		0	0	
45 to 55 years	• •	2	0		O	0	
55 to 65 years	• •	1	0		0	0	
65 and over	• •	0	1		0	0	

Totals	* •	9	2		2	1	

Tuberculosis—Distribution of Cases

Bishops Tawton	• •	• •	• •	11
Braunton	• •	• •	• •	11
Combe Martin	• •	• •	• •	1
Fremington	• •	• •	• •	11
Instow	• •	• •	• •	1
Kentisbury	• •	• •	• •	1
Loxhore	• •	• •	• •	1
Mortehoe	• •	• •	• •	11
Shirwell	• •	• •	• •	1
				49

Infectious Diseases—Age Periods

	Under 1	-	2	(n)	4	2	9	7	∞ ∞	9 10	0 111	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Age Un- known	Total
Measles	2				7																	7
Whooping Cough	4	ĸ	7	3	5	10	9	7					-									38
Pneumonia																					4	4
Scarlet Fever							-											-			-	2
Puerperal Pyrexia								···													7	7
9													-									
Totals	9	3	3	5	7 111		7	2		1	1	1			1		1				∞	56

Distribution of Infectious Diseases Cases Notified during 1954

Totals		56
Puerperal Pyrexia		2
Pneumonia	- 2	4
Scarlet Fever	S	5
Whooping Cough	9 1 1 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7	38
Measles	1 2 -	7
	ARLINGTON ASHFORD ATHERINGTON BERRYNARBOR BISHOPS TAWTON BITTADON BRATTON FLEMING BRAUNTON BRENDON CHALLACOMBE COMBE MARTIN COUNTISBURY EAST DOWN FREMINGTON GEORGEHAM GOODLEIGH HEANTON PUNCHARDON HIGHBRAY HIGHBRAY HIGHBRAY LANDKEY LANDKEY LANDKEY LANDKEY LOXHORE MARRINHOE MARRINHOE MARRYOOD MORTEHOE NEWTON TRACEY SHIRWELL STOKE RIVERS SWIMBRIDGE TAWSTOCK TRENTISHOE NEWTON WEST SHIRWELL STOKE RIVERS SWIMBRIDGE TAWSTOCK TRENTISHOE WESTLEIGH	Totals

I desire to thank Mr. Marshall Wright and Mr. Dennis for their help to me.

Your obedient Servant,

F. J. H. MARTIN.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR, ENGINEER, AND BUILDING SURVEYOR

The Red House, Castle Street, Barnstaple.

June, 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of The Barnstaple Rural District Council.

Mrs. Trebble and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my ninth Annual Report of Work carried out during 1954.

GENERAL

The area of your district is 129,346 acres with an estimated population of 23,410. The population of your District is steadily increasing, the increase for the past year being estimated by the Registrar General as 50.

The social conditions of the area show no change from last year. The provision of housing accommodation has progressed steadily and considerable progress has been made with your sewerage schemes. Nothing has been done by the proper Authorities to combat ever-increasing traffic problems consequent upon the steadily increasing volume of summer motorists. If visitors are to be encouraged into the area, as they must be in a district where the business of catering for summer visitors is a major industry, the question of car-parking is one which requires urgent attention.

The provision of adequate caravan sites has received the attention of the County Planning Committee during the past year and it would now appear that sufficient sites have been provided for the area. Planning approval has been given since the war to sites for 747 caravans.

The provision of sewers is a major problem to be tackled in the immediate future, but it will be many years before all the Parishes can be properly dealt with.

Schemes have been	completed as follows:—
Mortehoe (Woolacombe)	Provision of pipeline and sea outfall and sewer extensions.
Combe Martin	Provision of an Ejector Station at Newberry Beach.
Fremington	Laying of sewers from Bickington to Fremington Pill. Extension of existing outfall to Fremington Pill. Laying of sewers at Yelland, and the provision of a Sewage Disposal Works at Yelland to serve the whole of the area from Barnstaple to Instow, which is nearing completion. Sewers at Crosslands to serve a new Housing Estate.
West Down	Extension of sewer to Barton Lane.
Croyde	The provision of a Sewerage System, Pumping Station and Sea Outfall.
Instow	Emergency Works at the Sea Front.
Schemes approved	by the Council and contemplated
are as follows:—	Estimated Cost
Braunton, Saunton and a Bishops Tawton	£30,500
	£100,000
Instow Main Scheme .	
Provision of Disposal W	
	£6,000
Landkey and Swimbrid	lge, including Swim-

Unknown

Unknown

bridge Tannery

Parracombe

It will be noted upon reference to my report for 1952 that the major progress, in so far as sewerage schemes are concerned during the year under review, is the completion of the Croyde Sewerage Scheme. This scheme has been in operation since August and its existence has allowed provision of public conveniences and the connection of properties, which, prior to the provision of the sewer, discharged their effluent in such a manner as to cause nuisances. Furthermore, many houses which previously had bucket closets are now rapidly changing over to water carriage systems.

The year under review saw the return of slaughtering and the provision of fresh meat supplies to private trading, with the consequent opening of private slaughterhouses. eleven slaughterhouses, which were closed as a result of war-time measures, were re-opened by permission of the Council and the additional work resulting by regular visits to these slaughterhouses for meat inspection daily, including Sundays, placed an additional burden on my department. Special difficulties arose as their re-opening coincided with the height of the summer season when the department was taxed to its uttermost in any case, but all obstacles were overcome and no inconvenience was caused to the butchers or the general public. I am now happy to be able to report that the butchers have arrived at a definite routine and private trading in your area is working satisfactorily.

Another matter which required considerable attention in the late summer and autumn was the presence of myxomatosis. The roads in your area were frequently littered with dead and dying rabbits and, on your instructions, my department co-operated with the Devon County Council Highways Department in clearing the roads wherever possible. This work was undertaken regularly and continued well into November. Several thousand rabbits were picked up, the highest density being 140 in a length of road fifty yards long and in one collection.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The department is now collecting refuse as follows:— Parish Period Ashford Monthly Atherington Monthly Berrynarbor Fortnightly Bishops Tawton (Rumsam, Windy Ash, Eastacombe) Monthly . . Bittadon Once Every Three Months Bratton Fleming Monthly . . Braunton (Village) Weekly Braunton (Nethercott, Upcott, Lobb, Boode, Winsham) Monthly . . Brendon Monthly Combe Martin Winter-Weekly Combe Martin Summer-Twice Weekly East Down Every Three Months Fremington (Village) Fortnightly Fremington (Hamlets) Monthly Georgeham and Croyde Fortnightly Goodleigh Monthly Fortnightly Heanton Punchardon High Bray Monthly Horwood Monthly Kentisbury Monthly . . Monthly Landkey Landkey (Ackland) Bi-Monthly Loxhore Every Three Months Martinhoe .. Monthly Marwood Hamlets Monthly Mortehoe and Woolacombe Winter-Weekly Mortehoe and Woolacombe Summer-Twice Weekly . . Newton Tracey Monthly Parracombe Monthly Pilton West Monthly Stoke Rivers ... Bi-Monthly Shirwell Bi-Monthly

Swimbridge				Monthly
Tawstock (Hele Manor)			F	ortnightly
Tawstock (Village and Hamlets)	• •			Monthly
West Down				Monthly
D.C	41	C		41. a. C

Refuse is also collected during the Summer months from Saunton Sands Hotel, Army Camps, N.A.L.G.O. Holiday Centre at Croyde, and camping sites at Croyde. These collections are in addition to the normal Parish collections, and are charged for as Trade Refuse.

Private Contractors collect the refuse in the undermentioned Parishes:—

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

The total number of Inspections, Re-visits and Interviews during the year was 4,337. Made up as follows:—

Ice Cream Premises	19
Milk Retailers	9
Public Cleansing	37
Inspections under the Petroleum Ac	cts 6
Public Health Act Inspections, Nui	sances, etc 162
Bakehouses	9
Rodent Control	1287
Factories, Workplaces, Shops, etc.	14
Public Conveniences	105
Tents, Vans, Sheds and Camping S	ites 62
Visits to Refuse Tips	36
Public Houses	5
Number of Council and Comm	ittee Meetings
attended	111

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

During the year 1,287 visits and inspections were made to private dwelling houses, business premises and agricultural properties.

Of this total 438 were found to be infested with rats or mice, and the necessary advice was given.

68 complaints were received from householders, and in 51 of these cases treatment was carried out by the Local Authority.

2 Notices requesting disinfestation were served.

The Annual Testing of the 16 sewer systems showed that they were practically clear of infestation, the necessary treatments being carried out where applicable.

Treatments were made at the 6 Refuse Tips.

Co-operation with Agricultural Property Holders and others was generally satisfactory.

Disposal of Carcases deposited on Foreshore.

Animal carcases are still being deposited around the foreshore from time to time. Arrangements have to be made for disposal, usually by burial in lime on the foreshore.

Total Notices (Served as under).

Public Health Act, 1936	 	• •	2
Housing Acts	 	• •	2

Swimming Pools

The only Swimming Pool in the district is situated on the seashore and is privately owned. The pool is covered by every tide.

Offensive Trades

Byelaws are in operation for the control of Offensive Trades. There are two in the district:—

- 1. Tannery at Swimbridge.
- 2. Gut Scraping Premises at Pilton West.

Underground Sleeping Rooms

There is no need for Regulations in this area in respect of underground sleeping rooms.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Byelaws are in force relating to the above.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938

Inspections are made of Food Premises throughout the district from time to time and improvements have been called for where necessary. There has been no need for Statutory action during the year.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Regular visits have been made to food shops in addition to slaughterhouses and certain items of food have been condemned, principally due to rust and leakage following damage to tins during transport.

Ice Cream

Regular inspections of Ice cream premises were carried out. There was no need for Statutory action during the year.

Water

7 Water Samples were taken, 6 of which proved satisfactory. Advice was given in the case of the unsatisfactory result in an endeavour to effect an improvement.

Farm Water Supplies

Several Farm Water Supplies were investigated at the request of the Agricultural Executive Committee during the year.

Coast Protection

Regular inspections are made of the banks and defences generally around your coast. One case requiring attention has been notified to the responsible owners who have carried out the necessary work.

A matter now requiring serious consideration is the erosion of Saunton Burrows, I am working in conjunction with the Nature Conservancy and we are now obtaining statistics and other data in an endeavour to establish the real causes for the erosion.

Factories Act, 1937 (Sections 110 & 111)

OUTWORKERS

* ; , }		Section 110			Section 111	
Nature of Work	No. of out- workers in August list re- quired by Sect. 110	the	No. of Prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists	in un-	Notices served	Prosecu cutions
(1)	(1) (c) (2)	Council (3)	(4)	(5)		\$
Wearing Apparel (Making, etc.)	27	· <u> </u>		_		_
TOTAL	27	_				

FACTORIES ACT, 1937—PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provision as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)	Z	Z	Z	Nii
Number of	Written Notices (4)	Z	٠,	Z	5
	Inspections (3)	8	18	2	23
Numbor	on Register (2)	16	56	9	78
	Premises (1)	(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	Total

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

	N_1	umber of cases in what defects were found	Number of cases in which defects were found		Number of cases in which
Particulars (1)	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. By H.M. Inspector Inspector (4) (5)	H.M. ector 5)	prosecutions were instituted (6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	7	1		
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (a) Insufficient (b) Unsuitable or defective (c) Not separate for sexes	8	33		33	, <u> </u>
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)					
Total	5	5	Nil	3	Nii

BUILDING SURVEYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Red House,
Castle Street,
Barnstaple.

June, 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of The Barnstaple Rural District Council.

Mrs. Trebble and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the following Report on the activities of the Building Surveyor's Department during the year 1954.

This Report will omit reference to the Council's Housing Programme as during the past year, Mr. Squire has been appointed Housing Manager and he makes regular reports to the proper Authorities.

BUILDING LICENSING

No report is made this year on the number of licences issued as I am happy to be able to state that Building Licensing control ceased during the year.

PLANS

Details of Plans Submitted

No. approved under Bye-laws	• •	46
No. disapproved under Byelaws		14
No. approved under Town Planning	• •	230
No. disapproved under Town Planning	• •	32
No decision given under Town Planning		10
No. withdrawn after formal submission		14

I wish to record my thanks to each member of the Council, the Clerk, Medical Officer of Health, and to all members of the Department for their support and consideration during the past year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,
ARTHUR J. DENNIS.



